



Cpl. Reece Lodder | Hawaii Marine

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLOWS, Hawaii — Two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 take off after delivering Marines and Canadian soldiers as part of a noncombatant evacuation operation during Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2012 at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, July 26. From June 29 to Aug. 3, more than 25,000 military personnel from 22 nations, 200 aircraft and 40 ships and submarines are participating in RIMPAC. The world’s largest international maritime exercise, the 23rd in the series that began in 1971, is held biennially in and around the Hawaiian Islands. The exercise fosters training, interoperability and improved relations between countries providing security in sea lanes and oceans around the world.

THE NEW BOSS IN TOWN

Cpl. Tyler Main | U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

Lt. Gen. Terry G. Robling displays the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific colors and assumes command of MarForPac during a change of command ceremony with Lt. Gen. Duane D. Thiessen at Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay here, Thursday. Thiessen then retired after 38 years of service.

A MULTINATIONAL FINALE

Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

Royal Australian Light Infantry soldiers engage targets during a mechanized assault at the Kaneohe Bay Range Training Facility here, Wednesday. The exercise was the culminating training event for the 2012 Rim of the Pacific exercise. For more coverage, watch for next week’s edition of the Hawaii Marine.

MCAS, HMMH-463, 3rd Radio earn awards

Cpl. Reece Lodder
Combat Correspondent

Three Hawaii-based units were recently named the recipients of prestigious awards for operational excellence during 2011.

Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 were among 27 units recognized in the 2011 Chief of Naval Operations Aviation Safety Awards.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Amos said the awardees performed exceptionally in preserving aviation assets and lives through “proactive risk management, effective safety policies, engaged leadership and a commitment to improving the aviation safety program.”

“With operations perpetually ongoing across the globe and during the time of transition in our force, never has it been more important to remain vigilant in upholding the uncompromising dedication to safe operations that preserves our aviation assets,” Amos said.

Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, also the recipient of the base’s Volunteer Unit Award, received the CNO award for the second consecutive year.

During 2011, MCAS operated and maintained the base’s airfield facilities while supporting a presidential visit, the G-20 Summit, two Lava Viper Exercises, and multiple naval exercises, said Paul Anslow, the director of safety for MCAS.

In addition, MCAS cleared nearly 1.1 million square feet of trees and foliage from around the airfield, helping to reduce the wildlife aircraft hazard and enhances safety for pilots and crew.

From the flight line, Anslow said MCAS C-20 transport aircraft pilots amassed more than 14,000 mishap free hours while flying 342 sorties to 20 countries, and carrying 800 passengers and 95,000 pounds of cargo.

The award is the third consecutive CNO honor for HMMH-463.

During the last several weeks, ‘Pegasus’ has supported Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2012, the world’s largest international maritime exercise

“... never has it been more important to remain vigilant in upholding the uncompromising dedication to safe operations that preserves our aviation assets ...”
— Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Amos

See AWARDS, A-7

NEWS BRIEFS

Headphones prohibited while jogging/biking on MCBH

Reminder: wearing headphones is strictly prohibited while jogging, walking, skating, skateboarding or bicycling on any streets aboard MCB Hawaii. This regulation is being enforced by the Provost Marshal's Office and applies to all service members, family members and civilians. See the policy letter from Col. Brian Annichiarico, the MCBH commanding officer, at http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/g1/adjutant/pubs/Policy/CO_Statement_Headphones.pdf, review Base Order 5500.15B on the base website, or contact Base Safety at 257-1830 for more information.

MarForPac Band Concert

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael J. Smith and Master Gunnery Sgt. Mark Gleason, is proud to present an encore performance of their recent tour throughout New Zealand. This concert will honor the 70th anniversary of the arrival of American forces in the Pacific during World War II. The MarForPac Band will perform at the Base Chapel located aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii Tomorrow from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

Illegal off-road drivers to be criminally cited

Law enforcement officers will cite offending recreational off-roaders on criminal misdemeanor charges if found on public lands, such as Kaena Point, or if found trespassing within closed areas such as Waikane Valley or Sacred Falls State Park.

Recreational off-roading on public lands is strictly prohibited and is a criminal offense if you are cited. For details about Hawaii's recreational trails and off-road access areas, call the Department of Land and Natural Resources at 587-0166.

Lawrence Road intermittent lane closures

The Facilities Department Carpenter Shop will be intermittently closing the North/East bound lane of traffic on Lawrence Road between Bingham Way and Manning Street. The temporary closures will take place Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. (as needed) to construct two ADA handicap ramps. The construction will begin Tuesday and last approximately three weeks. For more information, contact the Facilities Department Carpenter Shop at 257-2016.

Mobile Counter-IED Interactive Trainer open

The Mobile Counter-IED Interactive Trainer is now open for scheduling and use. The MCIT is a mobile, highly flexible, enhanced training solution which will improve the training and readiness of warfighters in environments where improvised explosive devices are employed against our military forces.

The training technologies include, but are not limited to, mixed reality stage crafting, virtual human guidance, video footage and an interactive IED/C-IED simulation. The MCIT trainer is located in the Boondocker Training Area and use is scheduled through the RFMSS program.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Units should be ready in advance to form teams of four for the best benefit of this trainer. For details about the MCIT, contact Lee Fry at 257-1110.

Important phone numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCB Hawaii Chaplain	257-3552
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii Marine

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

Commanding Officer	Col. Brian P. Annichiarico
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Managing Editor	Cpl. Colby Brown
Media NCO	Cpl. Vanessa American Horse
Public Affairs Administration	Kaye McCarthy
Combat Correspondent	Cpl. Reece Lodder
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. James A. Sauter
Photojournalist	Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist	Kristen Wong
Graphic Artist	Jay Parco

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MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii 96863
E-Mail: HawaiiMarineEditor@gmail.com
Fax: 257-2511, Phone: 257-8837



More than 20 visitors from the Waikiki Community Center pose for a photo at the Pacific War Memorial, Tuesday. The visitors took a tour of the base and also went to the Combat Convoy Simulator.

Commentary: Social Media

Wearing a uniform? Think before you type

Cpl. Reece Lodder

Combat Correspondent

People crave interaction.

We used to communicate and build relationships through face-to-face conversations but technology has evolved our ability to interact. We tie ourselves into family, friends and our world through the newest electronics and expanding sphere of social media.

A small portion of military members employs these accounts as a creative way to share their story of service. Recruiters, military community service and public affairs personnel use them to tie into a larger demographic beyond service members.

Beside a few exceptions, we use social media to share ideas and communicate primarily on a personal front — not as service members. Although social media interaction is usually tied to personal accounts, this isn't a license for us to post whatever we please.

Social media sites like Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter are valuable tools that allow us to better connect to the world around us. Our service is part of who we are; thus, we talk about

work when we're online. We post photos from deployments or the daily grind. We talk about everyday life in the military.

But even a good tool in reckless hands can be dangerous. The line between our personal and professional lives can easily be crossed when we're interacting online in the absence of discernment.

When publicly discussing issues, especially controversial ones, it's proactive to state we're speaking for ourselves. There's a significant difference between specifying personal thoughts and speaking on behalf of a branch of service.

As any other American, we have the right to free speech ... but the rules of courteous interaction still apply. We need to exercise the same consideration, judgment and common sense online as we would in speaking face-to-face with someone. If not by personal standard, we're bound by our service's standard of professionalism to exercise discipline with what we participate in, say or discuss. We're representing our branch of service regardless of where we are or what we're doing.

Contrary to what emotions

may lead us to think in a given moment, not everything on our mind is beneficial for airing in a public forum. Few people need to know why a "friend" hates their boss or how another is always fighting with their spouse. Even fewer truly care.

Beyond appropriate social media etiquette, we need to be mindful of how much we're sharing about ourselves. The Marines Social Media Handbook says it best — "The best way to secure your stuff is to lock the door."

Keep personal information close to home and off the Web. Protect yourself with privacy settings. Maintain operational security. Not everyone online is operating by and for honest means.

Off duty and online, we're siblings, children, spouses, parents, Americans ... but we're still serving in our military. Whether we like it or not, there are certain standards we promised to uphold when we voluntarily raised our hands and pledged to serve.

We made the choice; now it's our obligation to think before we start tapping on a keyboard or a smartphone.

2012 Kaneohe Bay Air Show featuring

Redbull Pilot — Chuck Aaron

“Malibu” Chuck Aaron is the first and only civilian pilot ever to be licensed to perform helicopter aerobatics in the United States. In fact, he's one of only a handful of pilots permitted to execute the dangerous maneuvers internationally. Aaron is also the first helicopter pilot to be presented with the Art Scholl Showmanship Award, an honor bestowed by the International Council of Air Shows to recognize the world's most outstanding air show performers, and was inducted in 2011 to the prestigious Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

But the blond, mustachioed pilot isn't one to brag or to rest on his laurels. To date, Aaron has logged more than 18,000 hours in the air; and he has performed breathtaking aerobatics with Red Bull Helicopter (which he specially modified) at more than 125 air shows and events from coast to coast. “I love doing things nobody has ever done,” he declares, “as well as the opportunities the Red Bull Helicopter offers me.”

Along with Aaron, the Sept. 29-30 air show will feature top aerial demonstration performers, the Taste of Oahu, military and civilian static displays, the Flying Leathernecks and much more. The event is free. For more information about the air show, visit <http://www.kaneohebayairshow.com>.

AROUND THE CORPS

Evacuation exercise tests Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa Marines

Cpl. Adwin Esters

Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 12

ROTA, Spain — Reserve Marines and sailors of Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa participated in crisis response training during an evacuation control center exercise, July 20.

The exercise included over 50 Marines and sailors from Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa, Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team Company Europe and sailors from Combined Task Force-68 serving as administrators, role players and security personnel.

“The exercise involves getting evacuees and American citizens out of a country or area that is unstable,” said Maj. Nickolas Hight, officer in charge of ECC operations for Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa. “We have to identify the categories of evacuees and move them through a number of stations for pat-down searches, administrative processing, and medical inspections before they can be evacuated safely.”

At any given time the Department of State may call for the evacuation of U.S. citizens out of a foreign country facing natural disasters, political unrest or a deteriorating government. In that situation, a noncombatant evacuation operation is conducted to evacuate U.S. citizens whose lives are in danger. Once the Secretary of State approves an evacuation, the U.S. ambassador to the country has the authority to implement the plan in a crisis.

After a plan is implemented an ECC is set up to allow U.S. forces to enter the unstable area and a comprehensive plan for accountability, safety, and care

of evacuees is then put into effect. U.S. citizens, Department of Defense civilian personnel, designated host nation and third country nationals can then be processed and evacuated. The purpose is to prepare the evacuees for eventual overseas movement to a temporary safe haven or the United States.

Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa is able to establish an ECC and stands ready to assist in conducting a NEO for U.S. Africa Command if an evacuation is needed.

The training, which took place in a training facility for military operations in urban terrain on Naval Station Rota, prepared Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa for humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping missions, non-combatant evacuations, and crisis response operations.

The Marines and sailors were challenged with different scenarios during the exercise that tested their ability to respond to random issues that could arise in a real evacuation.

Some of the scenarios had evacuees starting riots, attempting to smuggle in contraband, or people seeking to be evacuated despite having serious health problems.

“During evacuations, we provide general medical care and emergency care,” said

Petty Officer 2nd Class Tim Riesche, a hospital corpsman with Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa. “We are also able to quarantine people in case anyone has a highly infectious disease.”

This is not the first time Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa has refreshed their crisis response skills. The MAGTF has been developing this capability since their pre-deployment training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., earlier this year.

“Part of our mandate is to be proficient in an ECC situation,” said Hight. “We accomplished that by setting a goal of 50 evacuees processed in an hour and actually exceeding that goal by processing 112.”

Special-Purpose MAGTF Africa is comprised of approximately 125 Reserve Marines and sailors from 32 different units from across the country and is based at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy.



Cpl. Adwin Esters | Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force 12

Marines from Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Africa pat-down search role players at the searching area during an evacuation control center training exercise, July 20.

New Marine graduates, granted US citizenship

Lance Cpl. Michael Rogers

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. — “Today is all so crazy,” said Pvt. Luis Rodriguez, a recent graduate of Platoon 1054, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion. “I don’t even believe this is actually happening right now.”

Rodriguez, a 23-year-old native of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, took the Oath of Allegiance and became an American citizen the day he graduated recruit training.

The naturalization process began the night he stepped off the bus and onto the Yellow Footprints when he started his in-process paperwork.

He became the first graduate to go through one of the depot’s newest programs when he took the oath at the Parris Island Museum among family, fellow graduates, his drill instructors, and the Marines who helped him through the process.

“We’re hoping dozens will go through this program,” said 1st Lt. Angel Alfaro, a legal assistance officer at the Parris Island Law Center. “We do everything in our power to ensure they have every opportunity to go through the process.”

A presidential order issued by President George W. Bush in 2002 stated when the nation is engaged in armed conflict, immigrants who are in the military can obtain their U.S. citizenship regardless of their length of residency or immigration status as opposed to the three-year process during peacetimes. Since its issue, the



Lance Cpl. Javarre Glanton | Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island

Pvt. Luis Rodriguez, a graduate of Platoon 1054, Alpha Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, receives his certificate of American citizenship from Wendy Wilcox, Charleston Immigration Office director, at the Parris Island Museum, July 20.

Army and Navy have designed programs that allow non-citizens to step on their depots and leave as citizens, said Alfaro, 30, of El Paso, Texas.

“I take this very personally because I’m a son of immigrants, and I know, from my parents’ experience, this is a very big deal,” he said. “We’re expecting more recruits to go through the naturalization process as this program gets refined, but as of right now, this Marine is the first one.”

The new Marine sought the Corps for the sense of brotherhood and for the challenge, but chose a military career to serve the country that gave his family an opportunity for a better way of life, Rodriguez said.

He worked for three years to provide the proper documentation for his recruiters and preparing for training before he was finally able to ship out.

“It really took a lot for me to get here,” he said. “I’ve wanted to join since 2009, but I was missing some of the paperwork

from my high school. It’s always been my dream to become a United States Marine and I never gave up because I’m not a quitter.”

The program is expected to be fully constructed by fall of this year, Alfaro said. “I hope this Marine takes this opportunity to run with it and shine,” he said. “He stepped aboard this depot as a civilian who was a noncitizen. Now, he’s leaving as one of America’s finest as a United States Marine and he’s a citizen of the greatest country in the world.”

FLYING FOREVER

Aerial refuel during Rim of the Pacific 2012

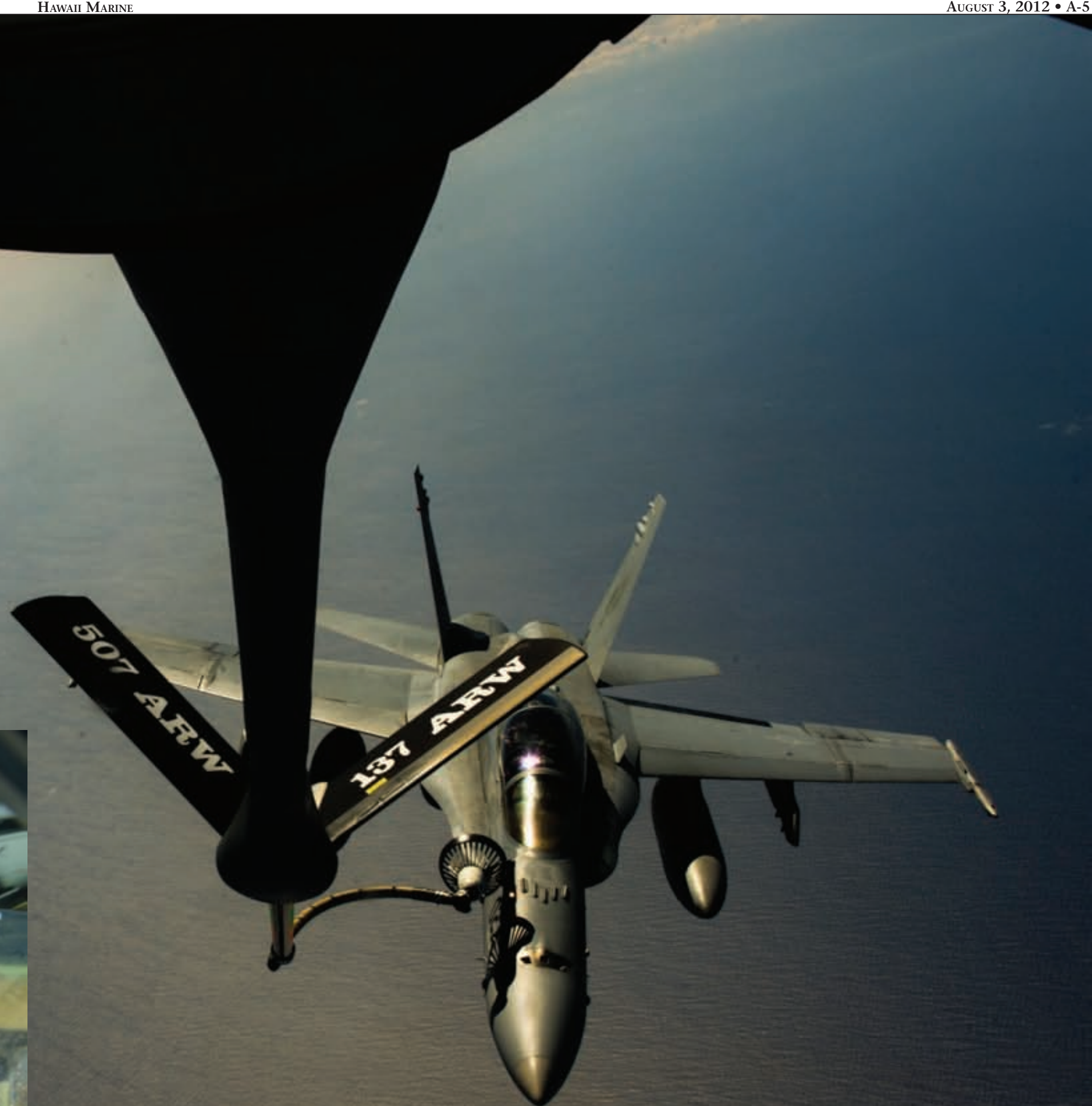
Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Stephany Richards | 2nd Combat Camera Squadron



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Matt Tompkins, a KC-135 Stratotanker boom with the 465th Air Refueling Squadron refuels U.S. Marine Corps F-18 Hornet over Hawaii in support of RIMPAC, July 28.



U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker with the 465th Air Refueling Squadron refuels U.S. Marine Corps F-18 Hornet over Hawaii in support of RIMPAC, July 28.



U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker with the 465th Air Refueling Squadron refuels U.S. Marine Corps F-18 Hornet over Hawaii in support of RIMPAC, July 28. Twenty-two nations, more than 40 ships and submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise from June 29 to Aug. 3, in and around the Hawaiian Islands. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2012 is the 23rd exercise in the series that began in 1971.



U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker with the 465th Air Refueling Squadron refuels U.S. Marine Corps F-18 Hornet over Hawaii in support of RIMPAC, July 28.

L.I.N.K.S. Kids Club hosted at Youth Activities Center

Kristen Wong
Photojournalist

Lt. Col. Edwin R. Rich II, commanding officer, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Nathan Milca and Jesus Cardenas helped sink the blade of a noncommissioned officer's sword through the soft, white icing of a special cake as 30 children not only learned about Marine Corps culture, but celebrated their graduation.

Children graduated from the Marine Corps Family Team Building Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills Kids Club on July 27 at the Youth Activities Center.

After having the first slice of cake as the guest of honor at the L.I.N.K.S. graduation, Rich handed 17-year-old Milca, the oldest child at the event, the second slice of cake.

After taking a bite, Milca handed a second piece of cake to 10-year-old Cardenas, the youngest child present. In this way, the children learned the Marine Corps birthday cake tradition.

This was the first time L.I.N.K.S. was incorporated into the Child, Youth and Teen Program on base. Amanda Taylor, L.I.N.K.S. trainer, divided the children up into two groups, one ages 6-9 and one for ages 10-17.

The L.I.N.K.S. Kids Club met each Friday for an hour in June for the younger children. The elder children attended hour-long Friday sessions in July.

"L.I.N.K.S. classes provide a lot of really good values and a lot of sound advice for the children's lifestyle in the military," said Patrick Murphey, program technician at the Youth Activities Center. "She gave them good tools to cope with the stress of moving and having their loved ones deployed."

Murphey said the L.I.N.K.S. sessions were a good opportunity for the children to talk amongst each other about their personal concerns and "relate with each other," and meet fellow peers who are experiencing the same problems.

"It's really organic the way she does her class," Murphey said "It's really unique."

Cardenas said being the youngest child at the graduation and being able to have the ceremonial second piece of cake was a surprise. Cardenas



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

Lt. Col. Edwin Rich, commanding officer, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, Jesus Cardenas, 10, (left) and Nathan Milca, 17 (right) cut the celebratory cake at the L.I.N.K.S. Kids Club graduation, July 27.

is the middle child in his family, and understands what it's like to be the middle child who feels like they're invisible.

On July 27, he felt like the youngest child in a family, who arguably receives more attention than the middle child.

Cardenas said through L.I.N.K.S. he played games, which helped him learn about the military.

"We talk about the history of the Corps, let the children see and try on military gear and uniforms, have children make journals for service members who are deployed, teach kids about saving money and volunteering," Taylor said.

"It helped me a lot to understand why my Dad has to deploy and how he has to fight for our country," Milca said.

Through the L.I.N.K.S. Kids Club, Milca said he learned about

cyberbullying, and to report incidents of bullying.

"If that kid doesn't get help he or she could hurt and isolate himself (herself)," Milca said.

Taylor described L.I.N.K.S. as "Marine Corps 101," where attendees not only learn about military life, but about ways to "deal with the challenges of a military lifestyle."

This year, more than 500 people have attended a L.I.N.K.S. session. The L.I.N.K.S. Kids Club is the newest class of the various L.I.N.K.S. sessions tailored for specific audiences.

Marine Corps Family Team Building also currently offers L.I.N.K.S. for Teens, L.I.N.K.S. for Kids, L.I.N.K.S. for Spouses, Advanced L.I.N.K.S. for Spouses and L.I.N.K.S. for Marines.

While each session is different, the goals of each are similar — to train

service members and their families to handle military life's challenges. Students participate in discussion and hands-on activities during L.I.N.K.S. Some, who have graduated from a L.I.N.K.S. class, have returned as mentors. There are mentor positions open for adults and children.

These mentors will help with future L.I.N.K.S. classes and in some cases teaching a portion of the class themselves.

The next L.I.N.K.S. for Spouses session is scheduled for Aug. 14 and 15 from 5 to 9 p.m., at the Waikulu Community Center. There will also be a L.I.N.K.S. Mentor Training session on Aug. 27 and 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 244.

For more information about L.I.N.K.S., visit <http://www.mccshawaii.com/mcftb.shtml> or call 257-2657.



Photos by Cpl. Reece Lodder | Hawaii Marine

Two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters prepare to take off after delivering Marines and Canadian soldiers as part of Rim of the Pacific 2012 at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, July 26.



A Marine with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment disembarks a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter during RIMPAC 2012 at Bellows, July 26.

AWARDS, from A-1

held biennially in and around the Hawaiian Islands. Though the squadron has historically operated CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters, its Marines are in the process of converting their fleet to the larger, newer CH-53E Super Stallions.

In a separate awards program, 3rd Radio Battalion was recognized for its technical and scientific contributions to ground electronic warfare. The battalion was one of three Marine units recognized in the 2012 Association of Old Crows Marine Corps Outstanding Unit Awards for contributions in their field during 2011.

“I’m very proud of the Marines, sailors and families of 3rd Radio Battalion on their exceptional achievement in earning both this award and the National Security Agency Director’s Trophy,” said Lt. Col. Jon Halverson, the commanding officer of 3rd Radio Bn.

The AOC honor applauded the battalion’s efforts in pre-deployment training and subsequent counterinsurgency, stabilization and support operations in Afghanistan and the Philippines, during which its Marines pioneered electronic warfare tactics, techniques and procedures.

The recognition also noted 3rd

Radio Bn.’s signals intelligence interoperability with U.S. and partner nations and its support of ongoing operations throughout the Pacific Command, Republic of Korea and during Operation Winter Surge 2011.

“From supporting combat operations in Afghanistan and Asia Pacific with tactical signals intelligence, to executing theater security cooperation and expanding intelligence partnerships in the Pacific in support of III Marine Expeditionary Force priorities, 3rd Radio Battalion’s performance has been highlighted by extraordinary professionalism,” Halverson said.